



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/821,263	03/29/2001	Robert G. Trende	AP32947-070457.0988	7239

7590 03/27/2006

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, 44TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10112-4498

EXAMINER

HAMILTON, LALITA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/821,263

Applicant(s)

TRENDE ET AL.

Examiner

Lalita M. Hamilton

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09112003.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thomas (6,317,745).

Thomas discloses a method and corresponding system for bill presentment and payment comprising providing billers and customers to participate in an electronic bill payment and presentment system having a centrally located mainframe system, providing a plurality of customer service providers to interface with one or more of said customers, providing a plurality of biller service providers to interface with one or more of said billers and to collect said billing information from said billers with respect to one or more of said customers, providing a centrally located switching system coupled to said bill payment and presentment system for coordinating the routing of messages between said customer service providers and biller service providers, generating at said customer service provider or at said biller service provider mainframe application files comprising said messages, forwarding said mainframe application files in batch mode to said centrally located mainframe system, and converting at said switching system said mainframe application files into Internet accessible addresses for delivery of said messages over the Internet to one or more intended recipients comprising at least one of said customer service providers or said biller service providers (col.5, line 15 to col.6,

Art Unit: 3624

line 55; col.9, line 60 to col.10, line 37; and col.21, line 64 to col.22, line 31); providing a file distribution agent for appending to said mainframe application files a HTTP header and using a look-up table to determine the Internet accessible addresses (col.16, lines 35-67); pushing said messages to one or more of said customer service providers, and bursting said messages to two or more of said plurality of biller service providers (col.5, line 15 to col.6, line 55; col.9, line 60 to col.10, line 37; and col.21, line 64 to col.22, line 31); and billing information over a communications network using an open financial exchange communication protocol, providing a switching system for routing messages including said billing information between one or more customer service providers and one or more biller service providers, providing multiple connectivity options into said switching system, said options including an open connection over public lines and a closed-line connection, forwarding by one of said customer service providers or one of said biller service providers mainframe application files including said messages with one or more intended recipients over said closed-line connection to said switching system, converting at said switching system said mainframe application files into Internet accessible addresses for delivery of said messages to said intended recipients over said public lines (col.5, line 15 to col.6, line 55; col.9, line 60 to col.10, line 37; and col.21, line 64 to col.22, line 31).

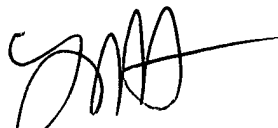
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lalita M. Hamilton whose telephone number is (571) 272-6743. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday (6:30-2:30).

Art Unit: 3624

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LMH